

Case - Timothy N. Pfeiffer,
Subject - Homicide, New Brunswick, N.J.
Operative - 124.

November 12, 1922. In connection with the above matter, Operative proceeded to Paterson, N.J., and upon arrival there finally located Mr. Joe Kossak, at #308 Pacific St., Paterson, N.J.

Operative questioned Mr. Kossak as to what he knew concerning Mrs. Gibson - Whereupon Mr. Kossak related to Operative, the following story.

During the early Summer of the Year 1918, a cow belonging to Mr. Kossak broke through the fence and went into the truck garden of Mrs. Gibson. Mrs. Gibson seized the cow and kept it in her shed and then sent word over to Mr. Kossak telling him that his cow had damaged her crop and that if he would give her \$5.00 she would return the cow - Mr. Kossak then paid Mrs. Gibson the required \$5.00, and the cow was returned to him. About one year later, or during the late Spring of the year 1919, two of Mrs. Gibson's horses entered the cornfields of Mr. Kossak, and destroyed a considerable amount of his young corn. Mr. Kossak upon finding Mr. Gibson's horses in his cornfield, took them and locked them in his barn. Sometime during the same day Willie Easton, the son of Mrs. Gibson, called on Mrs. Kossak and requested her to give him the horses. Mrs. Kossak then told Willie Easton to tell his mother that if she would send back the \$5.00, she could have her horses. A little later in the day, Willie Easton, Mrs. Gibson, and the supposed brother of Mrs. Gibson, (Bill Whittaker) came over to the Kossak house and demanded Mrs. Kossak to release the horses - Upon Mrs. Kossak refusing to do so, Mrs. Gibson and Bill Whittaker administered a terrible beating to Mrs. Kossak, forcibly taking the keys to the barn away from her, opening the barn and taking the horses back to the Gibson place.

When Mrs. Gibson and Bill Whittaker took the horses from Mrs. Kossak's barn, they also took a bunch of keys, a lock and two new halters belonging to Mr. Kossak. The above mentioned articles were never returned.

Mrs. Kossak at the time of the above described beating was three months pregnant, and due to the severe beating administered to her, the expected child was lost to her, and Mrs. Kossak was confined to her bed for a considerable length of time under the care of Doctor Kline, who had his offices near the Court House at New Brunswick, N.J.

Mr. Kossak retained the services of a lawyer by the name of Gluckfeld, who had his offices on the second or third floor in the National Bank Building, on George St., New Brunswick, N.J. Due to the efforts of Mr. Kossak's lawyer, Mrs. Gibson was summoned before the Grand Jury at Somerville, N.J., but due to the fact that Mrs. Kossak was confined to her bed the case was laid over to the Fall Term of the Grand Jury. The Fall Term of the Grand Jury at Somerville, N.J., failed to indict, giving as their reason insufficient evidence. Mrs. Gibson was represented in this particular action by a lawyer named Walter Suydam, of New Brunswick, N.J.

At the time of the above Grand Jury hearing, Mrs. Gibson had as one of her witnesses, the Millstone Bus driver.

Mrs. Gibson, Bill Whittaker, and Willie Easton testified before the Grand Jury that Mrs. Kossak chased them from her house to the Gibson house, and that Mrs. Kossak there fired twenty shots into Mrs. Gibson's front door.

After the Grand Jury Hearing while on her way home, Mrs. Kossak was

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accompanied by one of the men who was a member of the Grand Jury. This man told Mrs. Kossak that she had a good case and it was too bad that she did not have sufficient witnesses, as he was convinced that Mrs. Gibson and the rest of them were lying.

Mr. Kossak stated that when one of Mrs. Gibson's pigs would die with the cholera, instead of burying it she would dress it and bring it in to New Brunswick, or Somerville, N.J., and sell it to one of the local butchers cheap, and Mr. Kossak backs up the above statement with the following story:-

During the Fall of the Year 1919, Mr. Kossak was employed as a butcher for a Mr. Morris Bulber, of 226 French St., New Brunswick, N.J. (Mr. Bulber conducted a grocery store and butcher shop at that address). One day Mrs. Gibson came in to Mr. Bulber's store and offered to sell him a pig very cheap. Kossak looked at the pig and was convinced by the red spots in the flesh that the animal had died from cholera, and was not fit for human consumption, therefore, Kossak persuaded Mr. Bulber not to purchase the pig.

Mr. Kossak advised Operative that Mrs. Gibson has a very good friend a butcher in Somerville, N.J., to whom she sells quite a good many of her pigs and it is his impression that this butcher used his influence at the above mentioned Grand Jury hearing to have Mrs. Gibson's case set aside.

Mr. Kossak lived on a two acre farm about two blocks further out on Hamilton Ave. beyond the Gibson place - in other words, just on the top of the hill opposite the home of Mrs. Willer or Wheeler. Kossak lived at the above place during the year 1917, 1918, 1919 and the early part of the year 1920. While in the above mentioned locality, Mr. Kossak was in the employ of the Simplex and later the Wright Martin people at New Brunswick, N.J.

Mr. Kossak advised Operative that he purchased his two acre farm and house from Mr. Adam Greenbaum, of Perth Amboy, N.J., who was president of the Metuchen Realty Co., and when Mr. Kossak left he sold the property back to them, and that the property at the present time is cut up into building lots and several small houses built upon it.

Mr. Kossak further advised Operative, that a Mrs. Petrucci who lives in the brick house on the old Millstone Road, at one time lost six pigs which she has every reason to believe that Mrs. Gibson stole from her. Mr. Kossak also suggested that Operative call and see Mrs. Willer or Wheeler in regards to a farm roller which Mrs. Gibson took from her.

Mr. Joe Kossak at the present time is living with his wife and children at 308 Pacific St., Paterson, N.J., and is at present employed in the Wright Aeronautical Corp., at Paterson, N.J.

Mr. Kossak's parting remark to Operative was, "What I have told you I will tell to anyone, as I am not afraid of the truth, and I know that Mrs. Gibson tells awful lies.

Mr. Kossak and his wife describes Bill Whittaker as being a man about 35 years of age, about 5 feet, 4 or 5 inches in height, very stocky build, having very heavy dark eyebrows and heavy dark moustache. They go further to say that he was seen at all times carrying a two barrel shotgun.

Upon conclusion of the above interview, Operative proceeded to the railroad station and boarded a train for New York City, and discontinued.

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December 1, to December 9, 1922, inclusive. Learned that a Mrs Perkins who works for the "New Brunswick Home News" has had an affair with a Mr. Boyd who is one of the owners of the said paper. The Boyd family consists of Arthur Boyd, who is married and lives somewhere in New York; William Boyd, who is married to the daughter of Dan O'Day, a well known business man; and Elmer Boyd who is up until the present time connected with the "New Brunswick Home News." Old man Boydis now married to his fourth wife - two died, and one divorced him. The chief reporter of the said paper, who also holds an interest there, is a Mr. Danny Ray.

Also learned that Mrs. Perkins at one time was married to a Robert Beardsley, who was found dead in Norfolk harbor. The rumor was that he was a bootlegger and had been murdered.

I also received an additional statement from Mrs. Mills, who is Jim Mills' mother. She informed me that Eleanor Mills attended school with her daughter Molly, and that Eleanor's mother put her out when she was quite young. The talk at that time was that Eleanor had had an affair with a man named Hanson, who is at present working in Abraham's shoe store in New Brunswick, N.J. Also that Mrs. Mills had thought Eleanor had had an affair with Gersline; this man was about nine years ago - Mrs. Mills tried to verify this, but was unable to get anything definite; she would see Gersline with Eleanor and other girls. Mrs. Mills' daughter Molly was told about this affair by her mother while she was in California visiting her, and Molly advised her mother to convey this information to Mr. Hall - instead of telling it to Mr. Hall, Mrs. Mills told it to a Mrs. Charles Stryker, whose husband at that time was employed by the Hall's. Mrs. Stryker said that she did not think there was anything to it. While Eleanor was in the Hospital she was visited by Mrs Mills. Eleanor said, "See what the Choir has sent me," referring to flowers. During this visit, Mrs. Mills saw Gersline there.

Mrs. Mills states that on September 14th, while she was at Eleanor's house for the purpose of collecting \$5.00 which she (Mrs Mills) had loaned Eleanor, Eleanor was all dressed and said that she was going over to Minnie Clark's house; this was about 2.30 P.M. Jim Mills told his mother, at about this time he had given Eleanor \$10.00, that she had got the check that morning and went down to the grocery store and paid the bill which was about \$5.00. This statement conflicts with Eleanor's, as she said that Mills has not given her any money. Jim Mills further stated that he was so sure of this because Eleanor left the change in the drawer. Charlotte Mills was present during this conversation, and heard her mother say she was going over to Minnie Clark's house.

Mrs. Mills also informed me that Charlotte would go out and not return until late at night; her father would scold her mother for it, but Eleanor would uphold Charlotte. Within the last few months Eleanor refused to make breakfast for her husband, and he would have to get up early and make it himself. She also informed me that Charlotte was on the stoop on the night of September 14th, and that Eleanor said, "Kid, stay there until I come back." But instead of doing this, Charlotte went over to visit her Aunt, Vernie Mills, at #12 Oliver St., which is near Burnett St. Charlotte told Vernie Mills, "If Mother doesn't give me what I want I am going to give away on her." Charlotte also said, "I know mother would take walks with Mr. Hall, and also knew that mother loved Mr. Hall, and that Mr. Hall loved her mother." Charlotte told this to Mrs. Mills on the night of the murder. Charlotte further told Mrs. Mills that her mother was not happy with her father, and went

to bed and cried her eyes out. Mr. Mills' answer to this was that he did everything he could for her. Charlotte further said, "When mother wanted money, my father wouldn't give it to her." Charlotte accused her father of not treating her mother right, and that he made her very unhappy. Charlotte left her Aunt's (Vernie Mills) house with her brother Danny, arriving at her house at about 10 P.M.

Mrs. Mills also told me of an affair between Susie and Fred Shoemaker; Susie suspected her husband of having an affair with another woman, as she went through his coat pockets and there found a photograph and some notes or letters from another woman, and Eleanor had Mr. Hall interested in patching up this affair. Judge Hicks also knows about this affair.

Eleanor told her mother-in-law, Mrs. Mills, that Hall took her to a dentist in New York, and that Mrs. and Mrs. Hall were going to pay for her operation.

While Mrs. Mills was ironing clothes one day in Eleanor's house, there was some discussion, and Eleanor said to Mrs. Mills, "Preach this to someone else." Mrs. Mills replied, "I am going to tell Mr. Hall how you treat my son." Mrs. Mills finally did see Mr. Hall, and told him that Eleanor was one of the worst girls she ever saw, that she had a bad temper and used bad language in her home, and that her (Mrs. Mills') son could not do anything with her. To this Mr. Hall replied, "Yes, I know she has a bad temper." Mrs. Mills also informed me that Danny and Charlotte Mills told her that whenever Mr. Hall would be at the house that they (Danny & Charlotte) received money to go to the pictures so as to have them out of the way.

Mr. Sipple informed me that the first time he had any dealings with Mrs. Gibson was on September 13, when he bought a tractor from her, for which he paid \$150. This purchase he made for a neighbor of his. The next time Mrs. Gibson approached him was on November 12, which was on a Sunday - This occasion is when she made the offer of \$100.00 if he would corroborate her story, as he had a perfect excuse as he carried large sums of money, and he was in that neighborhood, and all he would have to say was he drove in about forty yards on DeRussey's Lane, saw a horse or a mule and a woman with a light coat, and the bushy-head man - The thought flashed through his mind that something was wrong; on account of the money he had on his person, a creepy feeling overtook him, and he backed away fearing that he might be held up. Mr. Sipple said that he could not consent to this. Mrs. Gibson answered, "Sha, there are a few more persons who are willing to say this, but you offer the better excuse, for you were actually in the neighborhood - I have received \$150.00 and Mrs. Fraley got \$50.00 for her story - You like money, I don't see why you won't do this, and if you do this, this is all I have to do to have Mrs. Hall indicted." Mr. Sipple answered, "All the money in Somerville, could not get me to do this. Furthermore, how could I see all this. I had no lights on my cars, the lights were out of order, I had lanterns." Mrs. Gibson then told him to think it over, that she would come over to see him as she wanted to buy a two-wheel wagon or car.

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that he had. She visited him again on November 18, which was on a Saturday, and there put the question to him, if he would corroborate with her; which he refused to do. The newspaper quotes Sipple's story correctly.

Mr. Sipple further informed me that Mrs. Gibson made a trip to Berry Farm, which is leased by him, and spoke to the Caretaker there; this was on a Wednesday, the day Sipple testified before the Grand Jury, and also on the Friday following.

Mrs. Harriman Simmons, of 1277 Clinton Place, Elizabeth, N.J., who is a State Welfare Worker, is unable to verify information that on three occasions Mrs. Eleanor Mills and Mr. Hill had gone to the Phillips Farm to bring Charlotte home - also that Charlotte was listed on the County List as a wayward girl.

Mrs. Harry Carpender said that she heard Mr. Mills tell Mrs. Hall, "She told me she was going to some Sunday School meeting, do you think there is anything in that?" This conversation was supposed to have taken place at 2.30 P.M., September 16th.

I also investigated a rumor that there was a picture of Mr. Hall in some bootlegger's place, but I am not able to verify this. I learned that the following are bootlegging concerns in New Brunswick, and may have used the Phillips Farm as a jumping off place:-

Thomas Rabelinsky
Fred Buriel, alias "Chick"
Curley David, " " "Curley Moon"
Thomas Shill
Grinsie
Adolph May

Rabelinsky is at the present time out on \$50,000 bail, and he is defended by a lawyer from Newark, named McCarter. At the time of the arrest in Newark, a detective by the name of Gregory was implicated by them.

Mr. Leupp of Easton Ave., New Brunswick, N.J., informed me that on the night of September 14, while sitting out on the back of his verandah he heard four shots, thinking that it was the Italians who were living over in the section of DeRussey's Lane, he said, "They ought to clean themselves out." He left the verandah, and he was on his way to retire, when he noticed that the clock in the hall showed 9.20 P.M.

I tried to interview Mrs. Fraley, but was informed that she had left for the holidays, and I could not find out when she would return.

Also tried to locate Cecil Battle, and was told by a colored woman who was taking care of his youngster, that she had not seen him for some time - in fact, he owed her the board-bill for the youngster, and she did not know when he would return. He is a colored fellow.

Mr. Henry Mills informed me that he suspected that there was an affair between Mr. Hall and Mrs. Mills, his sister-in-law. That at one time he was going to speak to Mr. Hall about this affair, which he failed to do. He thinks his brother Jim knows more than he has told. He wanted to find out from him if Mrs. Hall knew what became of Mr. Hall's penknife which he generally carried, and kept very sharp. Also that he was trying to locate

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who knew that Mr. Hall had a revolver while he (Hall) was down at Point Pleasant. He also wanted to find out as to how many different bank accounts Mr. Hall had. His reason for asking this is that he suspects that Mrs. Mills, his sister-in-law, was giving her money over to Mr. Hall, for the reason that all the money which Jim Mills earned would not be sufficient to keep the house going, and Eleanor was always in debt. Henry Mills said he's working on a theory now which so far has checked up, he is trying to get a few more details, and then he will give it over to Mr. Beekman - In fact he has spoken to Mr. Beekman about the theory, but Mr. Beekman does not seem to think much of it.

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December 14th to December 16th, 1922. Went to "The Daily Home News" office at New Brunswick, N.J., and secured some of the back copies of their paper. There are a number of dates which they are looking up and trying to get for me; will have the balance probably by Monday, if they can locate copies.

I have been unable to locate Cecil Battle.

Ephram White, of 56 Baldwin St., New Brunswick, N.J., gives me the following information -

That on September 14, 1922, he and two of his men were starting a job for Mr. Hopkins, whose home is opposite the Church. White instructed his men after finishing up on Hopkins' house that they should start work on the church vestibule, which they did at 11 a.m. or a little later - That the men's names are John Amorosky of 137 Townsend St., New Brunswick, N.J., and Mike Ceservenzick, who lives somewhere on Nelson St. White remembers he was on the scene on and off conveying lumber and tools while the men were working there. The Church vestibule job was finished at about 4.30 p.m. He thinks he saw Mills twice that day at the Church; that one of his men borrowed a ladder from Mr. Mills. That the only persons he saw there that day was Mr. Mills, Mr. Hall, his (White's) workmen, and the Vestryman named Bartholomew.

John Amorosky informed me that he recalls that he started work on the Church vestibule at about 11 a.m. or a little later, and it is his recollection that after dinner Mr. Mills came to the Church, and that Mills first unlocked the door and got the step ladder, which he gave to him. The ladder was gotten inside the kitchen. Mr. White told Amorosky to ask Mr. Hall about the repairs to the roof, and Amorosky saw Mr. Hall at the Church at about 3 p.m. and was instructed to repair the roof over the vestibule door. Mr. Hall's remarks were, "Look it over and put four or five boards there." Mr. Bartholomew had been there before Mr. Hall's arrival; he did not go into the Church. Mr. Hall went into the Church, remained there five or ten minutes, locked the door and went away. Mr. Mills was there while Amorosky spoke to Mr. Hall. At about 4.30 p.m. Amorosky and his partner Mike, quit work and went home. White also left in his car. The only persons whom Amorosky saw during the time that he was working on the vestibule were Mr. Hall, Mr. Bartholomew, Mr. Mills, Mr. White, and the man named Mike, who was working with him. When Mr. Hall came to the Church in the afternoon he drove there in his car and was all alone.

I went to Mike Ceservenzick's house, which is on Somerset St. below Nelson St., but could't find him at home.

I saw Mrs. Clarke, but received no additional information other than what she had already given me.

Learned that Charlotte Mills is meeting a reporter by the name of O'Connell, of the "New York Herald," and I am trying to get an interview with Charlotte, through this man.

In reading over the "Daily Home News," of October 18th, I find that they have printed in their paper the substance of the nine notes which were found on the scene of the murder at the time the bodies were discovered;

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they bear no dates and are not signed or addressed to anyone in particular, but it appears they are in Mrs. Mills handwriting. In reading them over carefully it appears that Mrs. Mills was on the constant lookout for her husband. I would also say that these notes were written recently. The following are some of the paragraphs that I have in mind:

1st Note:- "You put the dear picture in my hymn book. Minnie used my Hymnal for the organ, and I wonder if she saw them, although I don't care one bit, she provokes me so at times, and tonight if her flowers are still here I will put them in the kitchen. The note I left yesterday was crumpled, but I had to hide it in my small orange purse as I met him, and please excuse hastiness in writing sometimes, as I cannot be alone always. How glad I am school resumes tomorrow and I can be alone to write. Yesterday I was talking to Mrs. Burns, could not pass and not listen, as she was ready for conversation saying someone next to Hopkins was married yesterday, and they were queer people." It is my belief from the wording of this note, that it was written on Sept. 10th, which was on a Sunday, for the reason that school began on Monday, which would be Sept. 11th. In the same note I find the following paragraph:- "I could rave for hours but I must stop as there are peepers around- Charlotte talks, then Dan asks questions, then he annoys, so how can I write." From the substance of this I am inclined to believe when she makes reference to "peepers around" it might be Mr. Mills or the family.

The Second Note States: "How friendly our Easton Avenue road seems to us. Grandma is here - I must stop." My opinion, that a person getting this note would indicate that they were very friendly, or that they were in the vicinity of Easton Avenue very much; and that she was very cautious of the grandmother, who is Mr. Mills' mother.

The Third Note States: "Sew your torn trousers." It appears that this note might have been written by Mrs. Mills after her return from the Lake Hopatecong trip, for the reason that on Sept. 13th, Mr. Hall had his trousers torn, which were mended by Mrs. Hall. I would not be surprised that this was the note that was left at the Church on the Thursday of September 14th, when Mr. Hall and Mrs. Mills failed to return.

The Fourth Note: I don't seem to be able to affix any date when it might have been written.

The Fifth Note: I don't seem to be able to affix any date when it might have been written.

The Sixth Note States: "When I said I would leave a note I forgot that it may not be wise, but I am taking a chance for I cannot have you disappointed even though it is not much. What a gay happy girl I am today and yesterday too- I love your dear note of last night and want to sleep after reading it. Do you suppose we could start early in the morning and not return until the following night early, say ten or eleven. I guess I better not leave this, but give it to you tomorrow. It is 3.30 and he has not returned, I may wait until he comes back and then I can be sure you will get this."

The Seventh Note states: "You ask me did I want you to come - Honey mine, I was needing you as only you know, but he was here and so I said not to come."